

Message Text

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41

ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AID-05 EB-07 OMB-01 IO-11 ACDA-05

TRSE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 BIB-01 SAM-01

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R 010748Z MAR 76

FM AMEMBASSY MANILA

TO JAKARTA 5443

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 2560

USIA WASHDC

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

C O N F I D E N T I A L MANILA 2899

USIAC

USIA FOR IEA

HONG KONG FOR MILLER

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: NONE

SUBJECT: VOA STRINGER - JAKARTA

REF: JAKARTA 2672

TEODORO VALENCIA, LEADING PHILIPPINE NEWSPAPER COLUMNIST, REPORTED THE FOLLOWING IN THIS MORNING'S PHILIPPINE DAILY EXPRESS: QTE DURING A PRESS CONFERENCE IN BALI PRESIDED BY PRESIDENT MARCOS, A "VOICE OF AMERICA" MAN ASKED THE PRESIDENT IN A RUDE MANNER, "WHY ARE YOU GIVING PRESS CONFERENCE?" (SIC) THE PRESIDENT, VERY COOL AND COLLECTED, TOLD HIM IT WAS BECAUSE HE HAD BEEN ASKED BY THE OTHER HEADS OF GOVERNMENT TO DO SO. THE AMERICAN AGENT SHUT UP. ONE MIGHT ASK WHY THE "VOICE" WAS SO UNHAPPY ABOUT PRESIDENT
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MARCOS GIVING AN ASEAN PRESS CONFERENCE. UNQTE

IN A CONVERSATION LATE LAST WEEK WITH THE AMBASSADOR SECRETARY OF INDUSTRY PATERNO BROUGHT UP THE MATTER OF A VOA CORRESPONDENT SPEAKING RUDELY TO THE PRESIDENT DURING A BALI PRESS CONFERENCE AND INTIMATED THAT THIS CORRESPONDENT WOULD BE PERSONA NON GRATA IF HE EVER ATTEMPTED TO ENTER THE PHILIPPINES.

IN CHECKING OUT THE MATTER THE PAO WAS INFORMED TODAY BY SECRETARY OF INFORMATION TATAD WHO WAS ALSO PRESENT AT THE PRESS BRIEFING THAT THE CORRESPONDENT ASKING THE QUESTION WAS A "MALAY, STOCKY AND BALDING." ACCORDING TO TATAD, THE CORRESPONDENT ASKED THE SECRETARY IF HE WAS AN AIDE OF THE PRESIDENT. UPON IDENTIFYING HIMSELF, TATAD STATED THAT THE VOA CORRESPONDENT INTRODUCE HIMSELF AS A USIS STAFFER AND THEN CORRECTED HIMSELF, STATING THAT WHILE HE WORKED FOR USIS, HE WAS A VOA STRINGER. (TATAD COULD NOT REMEMBER HIS NAME.)

ALTHOUGH SECRETARY PATERNO EXPRESSED CONCERN TO THE AMBASSADOR ON THIS MATTER, SECRETARY TATAD ASSURED THE PAO THAT THE PRESIDENT WAS NOT AS UPSET ABOUT THE INCIDENT AS WERE SEVERAL CABINET MEMBERS AND PHILIPPINE PRESS MEN WHO WERE PRESENT. TATAD ASSURED THE PAO THAT IT IS "A CLOSED MATTER AS FAR AS WE ARE CONCERNED."

WHILE ABOVE MAY REPRESENT PHILIPPINE VERSION OF THE EVENT, IT IS OBVIOUS THAT THERE WERE SOME RUFFLED FEATHERS IN THE PHILIPPINE CAMP. OUR CONCERN IS THAT IF INDEED THE INCIDENT HAD BEEN TAKE MORE SERIOUSLY IT COULD HAVE JEOPARDIZED FUTURE ENTRY OF VOA CORRESPONDENTS INTO THE PHILIPPINES. MOREOVER, WE ARE ANXIOUS TO AVOID ANY UNTOWARD PUBLICITY ABOUT VOA AT PRESENT BECAUSE OF UPCOMING BASE NEGOTIATIONS WITH GOP WHICH INVOLVE TWO VOA SITES.

WOULD APPRECCIAE JAKARTA'S COMMENTS.
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To: JAKARTA
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